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Cease-Fire Developments

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State Department review completed

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Cease-Fire Developments

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South Vietnamese Forces Move to Reopen Highway
North of Saigon

Government troops with air support apparently have begun an operation to reopen a 20-mile stretch of Route 13 between Lai Khe and An Loc that is held by the Communists. The commander of Military Region 3, General Minh, told the US consul general at Bien Hoa that the Vietnamese Air Force had "prepped the area" yesterday and that his troops are already in light contact with elements of a Communist division. Minh reiterated that he had received orders from President Thieu to undertake this operation and that he was "obliged to carry it out." Reportedly, the effort is to continue until 10 June when, if the government units have not reopened the roadway, they are to hold in place.

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CAMBODIAThe Military Situation

Khmer Communist military activity increased on 6 June in a sector some 10 to 15 miles southwest of Phnom Penh. Communist shellings forced two small government units to withdraw from their positions along Route 26 south of the road's junction with Route 4 at Thnal Totung. The Communists also shelled several Cambodian positions near Route 26 just north of Thnal Totung. Similar harassing attacks were carried out against four other positions below Route 4 a few miles closer to the capital, but at last report only one had been evacuated. A government paratroop battalion is being sent from Phnom Penh to help relieve the pressure in this area. Although Route 4 apparently remains open to military-escorted traffic, Khmer Communist forces are still in a position to interdict the highway.

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INTERNATIONALThe North Vietnamese Visit

According to all accounts in the Chinese press, the high-level North Vietnamese visit to Peking is going well so far. NCNA has used relatively offusive language in characterizing the atmosphere at both ceremonial and substantive meetings. The Chinese press, moreover, has gone to unusual lengths in describing the meeting--apparently quite warm--between Mao and Le Duan and Pham Van Dong on 5 June. The Chinese have scheduled a public rally in connection with the visit.

By contrast, Hanoi has carried no editorial comment on the visit although it has run pro forma articles in praise of Sino-North Vietnamese relations. This suggests that North Vietnam may view the results with less enthusiasm.

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Except for a routine public health agreement almost certainly arranged beforehand, there has been no public word either of agreements or of differences.

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Chinese Appoint Ambassador to the PRG

Peking has announced the appointment of an ambassador to the PRG in South Vietnam. NCNA reported on 5 June that Wang Jo-chieh, accompanied by two middle-level diplomats, presented his credentials to the PRG leadership on 3 June. Wang is an experienced envoy; he previously served as ambassador to Yemen (Sana).

The Chinese account hinted that Peking has set up an embassy within a Communist-controlled area of South Vietnam, perhaps in Quang Tri Province. According to a PRG press account, several unidentified envoys attended a rally held in Quang Tri on 4 June.

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Peking's timing may have been influenced by the fact that other countries, including the Soviet Union, have appointed ambassadors to the PRG during the last week or so. Wang's appointment confers a higher degree of legitimacy on the PRG as a genuine government than Peking has indicated in its propaganda. The day after he presented his credentials, for instance, an editorial in *People's Daily* stopped short of terming the PRG as South Vietnam's sole legitimate government. [REDACTED]

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